

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BONN 13604

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GW, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS: ACTIVITIES OF FORMER GERMAN DIPLOMAT
KURBJUHN

REFS: A) BONN 13540; B) NICOSIA 1816

1. AS NOTED REF A, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS SOME DOUBTS ABOUT PAUL KURBJUHN'S ACTIVITIES SINCE HIS RETIREMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, A LONG ARTICLE IN THE GERMAN WEEKLY, DER SPIEGEL, PRESENTS A MORE FAVORABLE PICTURE OF THE FORMER GERMAN DIPLOMAT.
2. THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE IS SUBTITLED "DIPLOMAT PAUL KURBJUHN WAS AN IRRITANT TO THE RULERS OF CYPRUS BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD CONNECTIONS ON THE ISLAND. THEY (THE RULERS) WERE AWARE OF HIS CRITICAL REPORTS TO BONN AND TRIED TO BLAME HIM FOR A CONSPIRACY ALONG WITH FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS." THE ARTICLE OUTLINES THE CHARGES THAT KURBJUHN WAS INVOLVED WITH EOKA-B, STRAUSS AND THE ISRAELIS IN A RIGHT-WING PLOT TO OVERTHROW KYPRIANOU. ACCORDING TO SPIEGEL, THE CHARGES AGAINST KURBJUHN STEM FROM GOC IRRITATION OVER HIS POLITICAL REPORTING WHILE
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AT THE FRG EMBASSY. KURBJUHN'S REPORTING WAS JUDGED BY THE GOC TO BE BIASED IN FAVOR OF THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS. SPIEGEL MAINTAINS THAT SOMEONE IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE REGULARLY LEAKED KURBJUHN'S TELEGRAMS TO THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR IN BONN, TASOS PANAYIDES.

3. THE ARTICLE STATES THAT KURBJUHN WAS NOT AT

LARNAKA AIRPORT ON FEBRUARY 19 AND THAT THE GOC WAS CONFUSED ON THIS SCORE BECAUSE OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE CONTROL TOWER DURING THE BRIEF STOPOVER OF THE HIJACKED LUFTHANSA "LANDSHUT" IN OCTOBER, 1977. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT KYPRIANOU WAS ATTEMPTING, THROUGH HIS CHARGES OF A CONSPIRACY, TO TORPEDO AN EMERGING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CLERIDES AND PAPADOPOULOS WITH THE TURKS. THE ANTI-GERMAN NOTE, INCLUDING THE ACCUSATION AGAINST KURBJUHN, WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE HANDIWORK OF LYSSARIDES.

4. A FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE BELIEVES THE SPIEGEL ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY KURBJUHN. OUR SOURCE ADVISES THAT, SINCE HIS RETIREMENT, KURBJUHN HAS SERVED AS A CONTACT MAN FOR SPD OFFICIAL HORST EHMKE. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, KURBJUHN MAY (REPEAT) MAY HAVE CHanneled FUNDS FROM THE SPD TO CLERIDES (OUR SOURCE CLAIMS KURBJUHN HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS DURING HIS EMBASSY STINT BUT HAS ALWAYS HAD CLOSE TIES TO GREEK CYPRIOTS, PARTICULARLY THE CLERIDES WING). REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE REPORT OF FUNDING IS ACCURATE, OUR CONTACT MAINTAINS THAT KURBJUHN'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF CLERIDES, AND NOT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, LED TO HIS BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON-GRATA.

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5. OUR SOURCE DENIED THAT KURBJUHN'S CABLES WERE LEAKED BY THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT KURBJUHN'S REPORTING, WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN FAIRLY EVEN-HANDED, MAY HAVE BEEN LEAKED TO THE GOC BY A GERMAN EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT ONE OF THE GERMAN EMPLOYEES AT THE EMBASSY MIGHT BE LEAKING INFORMATION TO HER GREEK CYPRIOT HUSBAND.
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